

CLOSER GLIMPSSES OF THE WAR IN ORIENT FILES

Novik and the Detained Steamers---Kuropatkin's Position---Russian Prisoners---Togo's Narrow Escape---At Port Arthur and Elsewhere in War Zone.

(From Japanese Files.)

The Otaru Shimbun publishes the following description of the naval engagements at Korsakoff, furnished by an officer who participated in it:

The Chitose and the Tsushima, having been informed that the Russian cruiser Novik had passed off the Atoa Cape lighthouse of the Kuriles in a northwesterly direction on the 19th at 7:40 a. m., steamed ahead for the Soya strait at full speed. The Chitose watched the strait, whilst the Tsushima searched for the enemy. The Tsushima, having two masts and three funnels, resembled the Russian cruiser Bogatur in appearance and was likely to mislead the Russians. As for the Chitose, she had always been near Port Arthur since the first naval engagement of February 9, and was familiar to the Novik. This consideration caused the commander of the squadron to select the Tsushima for the mission. The latter had been mainly engaged in picket duty and had had no experience in actual fighting. It might be easily imagined, therefore, with what feelings her crew proceeded to meet the enemy for the first time. She steamed in a northerly direction and reached a point 25 nautical miles off Korsakoff on the 20th at 4:20 p. m., when to the crew's delight the top of a mast and then three funnels of the Novik at anchor within the harbor appeared in sight. Immediately afterwards, the enemy, perceiving the approach of our warship, steamed out of the harbor at high speed, and headed south, apparently with the object of running through the strait. The Tsushima also directed her course to the south and presented her portside against the starboard of the Novik. At 4:30 p. m., fire was opened by our vessel and fierce fighting ensued. The Novik was the ship noted for her 25 knots speed, her repeated attacks on the Japanese destroyers, and her unsurpassed pluck and valor. Her shells poured close to the Tsushima in a most dangerous manner. Her maneuvering was so skillful that it drew forth the admiration of our seamen. The issue of the day might have been otherwise than actually occurred if two of the shots fired by the Tsushima had not burst upon the deck of the Novik. They not only destroyed the deck, but caused a combustion on board, and the Novik, in consequence, suddenly turned north and fled for Korsakoff. The Tsushima at once followed in pursuit and the enemy entered the harbor. During the fighting, which lasted until 5:30 p. m., one of the enemy's shots ricocheted on the surface of the sea and struck the bunker on the starboard side of the Tsushima, causing a leakage. The damage, however, was speedily repaired. Moreover no casualty occurred on board the ship.

Prior to this, the Chitose guarding the Soya straits received at 4:20 p. m. a wireless message from the Tsushima, stating that the enemy had been discovered. The Chitose at once ordered the Tsushima to notify the location. Aware of what was happening, the enemy threw out currents of electric waves in order to confuse our messages, and it was with great difficulty that the Chitose made out the word Korsakoff. She then steamed at full speed for the latter port, but could not find the Novik owing to the darkness. The Tsushima was again despatched to Soya strait in order to guard against the escape of the Novik, and the Chitose watched outside the harbor the whole night. The following day, a little past 6 a. m., she entered the harbor and found the Novik beached, with her stern submerged to the upper deck. It is presumed that this had been done in order to save the vessel from sinking. No sooner had the Chitose entered the harbor than the crew of the Novik lowered steam launches and boats and made for the land. It was seen from our warships that the shutters of the houses in the town were closed and the streets deserted. The Chitose fired her broadside guns on the Novik, to the immense satisfaction of the crews of those guns who had hitherto had no opportunity to display their marksmanship, and the Russian warship was made a total wreck. The Chitose continued firing from 6:25 to 7:10. She then left Korsakoff and rejoined the Tsushima.

RUSSIAN WARSHIPS AT TSINGTAO.

The Asahi publishes a detailed account prepared by its correspondent at Kiaochow, of the flight into that port of the Russian war vessels after the recent naval engagement off Port Arthur. We reproduce the following from his story:

At 4:30 p. m. on the 11th inst., a signal was received from the signal station that Russian warships were arriving. Presently the Russian torpedo-boat (destroyer) Beschummi entered the harbor, being followed by the cruiser Novik, while the battleship Cesarevitch arrived at about 7:30 p. m. Owing to the darkness the latter vessel could not be identified at the time of her arrival and was supposed to be the Askold by the Germans and other nationals at the port.

During the same night the Novik was supplied with coal by the British steamer Whig (?), which had been staying at Kiaochow during the past six or seven days. This steamer had originally been destined for Port Arthur with coal for the Russian squadron there, but could not reach her destination. Throughout the night the Novik took in coal, sufficient to enable her to proceed not only to any nearest port but to any distant place she might select. The vessel left Kiaochow at 5:30 a. m. on the 12th, and two Russian torpedo-boats arrived instead at about 10 a. m.

The Japanese war vessels were expected by the Germans on the 12th, but when the former did not arrive at Kiaochow during the day two gunboats were placed outside the harbor to provide against any emergency during the night.

The Cesarevitch is very seriously damaged. The survivors of her crew are said to have expressed their admiration at the excellent marksmanship of the Japanese gunners, who at a distance of 7000 metres seldom missed the mark. The vessel had one-third of her force most carried away and had a very big hole in her aft funnel. In addition her bridge was riddled, the engines were rendered useless and the rudder was destroyed. The vessel was also damaged at three places below the water line, which necessitated the constant working of the pumps. It was only because the vessel was a twin-screw one that she was able to forge ahead, though at the low speed of 5 knots an hour. During the engagement of the 10th inst., the Japanese shell fire was concentrated on the bridge of the Cesarevitch. The commander-in-chief of the Russian squadron and the captain of the vessel were watching the fight from the bridge, when a shell struck near them and both were killed instantly. The assistant commander-in-chief was also wounded at the same time. All the officers of the Cesarevitch, with the exception of a few, were either killed or wounded in the engagement.

On the 14th the armament of the Cesarevitch was sealed by the German cruiser Hertha. Both the Japanese and Chinese were prohibited from visiting and photographing the vessel, though it seems that this permission was not withheld from the Germans. The Britishers were also not allowed to visit the vessel.

It is stated that the Novik had hoisted the Japanese flag till she reached some distance from Kiaochow, thus effecting her escape.

GENERAL KUROPATKIN'S POSITION.

The Jiji's Shanghai correspondent states that Mr. Millard, Scribner's correspondent, who had been with General Kuropatkin's headquarters for several months, has been interviewed by a Shanghai journalist, whilst visiting Shanghai en route from Liaoyang to Japan. Mr. Millard states:

General Kuropatkin's positions are strong and are effectively defended. The Japanese generals are exercising the utmost precaution in order to defeat the Russian strategem. General Kuropatkin, General Sakharoff and General Chalkieroff are assiduously training the newly arrived troops and will not enter into any offensive operations until they become convinced of their success.

General Kuropatkin's greatest object has been to obtain the largest possible amount of necessities for a great army, so that nine out of ten trains coming from Europe have been loaded with provisions, ammunition, clothing, and medical materials, of which a fairly large quantity is now in store at Liaoyang. Of these stores, provisions constitute a comparatively less important part as they can be abundantly obtained in Manchuria itself. Under the circumstances, troops are carried by only one or two of some eleven trains leaving Europe for the Far East, the remainder being appropriated for the conveyance of military stores. During the correspondent's presence at Liaoyang, the troops of the 10th army corps arrived at Liaoyang at a daily rate of 3000, but this rate was reduced during the transportation of military stores.

Should Russia adopt the American railway system, or still better, engage four or five American managers and some 200 experienced American assistants, it would be easy for her to double the efficiency of the railway. Practically half the value of the latter is at present reduced owing to the confusion and delay caused by several branch lines. Russia is now confronted by the question of a better railway administration rather than by that of better officer of her troops.

When the correspondent left Liaoyang, General Kuropatkin had under his command not much more than 125,000 troops, who were stationed in the neighborhood of Liaoyang, while a force not exceeding 20,000 were quartered at Liaoyang. It was expected that large reinforcements would arrive from Europe towards the end of this month or the beginning of next. The Russian artillery possesses guns of the latest pattern, and occupies one of the most important positions in the Russian army.

RUSSIAN PRISONERS AT MATSU-YAMA.

The Russian community at Matsuyama and neighborhood—we mean the prisoners of war—was recently considerably augmented by the arrival there of the 600 hundred survivors of the cruiser Rurik, sunk during the naval engagement on the 14th inst., and the following particulars concerning both the newcomers and the older arrivals will doubtless be found interesting:

Rotelberg (?), a member of the Rurik's band, one of the new prisoners, has a high opinion of the Japanese blue-jackets. He states that he had long heard of the bravery and discipline of the latter, but the heroism and skill shown by them in the recent naval engagement, which was fatal to the Rurik, was far beyond his conception of them. The self-sacrificing manner in which the Japanese sailors engaged in the rescue of the Russians, who had but a short time before been their enemy, was, says the Russian musician, really worthy of the men of the navy of a great power.

Lieutenant - Commander Sarlov (?), also of the Rurik, states that during the last moments of his vessel, the captain ordered his men to destroy her engines and sink her. The captain and the officer second in command then committed suicide, while the lieutenant-commander himself was struck by a Japanese shell and hurled overboard, being rescued afterwards.

Curiously enough, many of the prisoners from the Rurik have tattooed on their right arms a few Japanese numerical characters, but the reason is unknown.

Owing to the recent arrival at Matsuyama of the Rurik's prisoners, the Russian prisoners in general have become somewhat depressed, contrasting strongly with their previous optimistic views concerning the outcome of the war.

The birth of the heir to the Czar was celebrated by the Russians at Matsuyama on the 19th inst.

JUNIOR FUSHIMI WOUNDED.

H. I. H. Lieutenant - Commander Prince Fushimi (Junior), who was wounded during the naval engagement of the 10th inst., arrived at Shimbashi on the 22nd inst., shortly before 10 a. m., from the front and at once drove to his palace at Mitadaimachi, Shiba. At the platform of the station, his highness was received by the representatives of their majesties, the emperor and empress, and H. I. H. the crown prince; the princes of the blood, the members of the corps diplomatique, Marquis Yamagata, Counts Inouye, Matsukata, Hiji-kata, Okuma and Itagaki, the representative of Marquis Ito; Count Katsura, the premier, and other ministers of state, and many others. Outside the station and along the route to the palace immense crowds of citizens had gathered, who raised enthusiastic shouts of banzai as his highness drove through the streets. The whole city was decorated in honor of the occasion. His highness, who was clad in the uniform of a lieutenant-commander, showed signs of the strenuous life passed on board the flagship Mikasa during the past few months. During the forenoon Dr. Hashimoto examined the prince's wounds, which were found, to the doctor's satisfaction, to have nearly healed.

H. I. H. Lieutenant-Commander Prince Fushimi proceeded to the imperial palace on Tuesday at 10:10 a. m. and was received in audience by T. I. M., the emperor and the empress. His highness left the palace at 11 o'clock.

KAMIMURA'S VICTORY.

The importance attached by the general public to the defeat of the Vladivostok squadron by Vice-Admiral Kamimura is shown by numerous postal cards, letters and telegrams which continue to arrive at the admiral's residence in Tsuna-machi, Mita, Tokyo. From the 15th to 20th inst., no less than 149 messages were received, of which 28 cards, 12 letters and 5 telegrams were anonymous. Most of the cards bore the word "Banzai" only. Some of the messages were quite interesting. To quote a few instances, one of the letters reads in Kana as follows: "I am so very glad that my son is avenged. I humbly beg you to forward by best thanks to your husband, Aug. 15.—The mother of a soldier of the Kinshu Maru." Another bears the joint signatures of a boy aged 9, a girl aged 7, and another boy aged 4, and reads: "The Vladivostok squadron has at length been caught. Japan has won the victory. We all thank you, Commander-in-Chief Kamimura of Dai-Nippon, Banzai, Aug. 16." It is presumed that these children lost their father on one of the transport disasters.

SITUATION AT PORT ARTHUR.

The Jiji's Chefoo correspondent sends the following story as emanating from a reliable source:

The number of the wounded at Port Arthur is more than 10,000. Owing to the scarcity of hospital materials, the treatment of the wounded is imperfect. From strategical necessity, some of the wounded are forced to participate in the fighting. All provisions, except flour, are scarce, and as to vegetables there are none. The warships in the harbor consist of five battleships, two cruisers and some twenty torpedo-boats and destroyers. All the warships are damaged. The Japanese shells are falling in the city. The docks and churches have sustained severe damage. The Golden Hill battery is short of ammunition, and most of the fort has been destroyed. The fall of Port Arthur will occur in a few days. General Stoessel has lost one of his legs.

Another report states that the principal buildings at Port Arthur, especially the provision stores and library, have been badly damaged. The Japanese are attacking the Russians every night, from midnight to dawn. The citizens have found a safe recess in the cave of a mountain. The Russian defensive works are in a most perfect state.

An officer recently returned from Dalny states that the Russian troops at Port Arthur frequently proceed to within a very short distance of the outposts of our investing army and gather maize from the fields, this being the only food-stuff of the Port Arthur garrison. The officer adds that on a certain day several Chinese mounted on white horses were seen signalling from an eminence the positions of our troops, but were captured by our men who on examination discovered that each of the Chinese was in possession of 200 roubles.

THE DEMAND FOR SURRENDER.

The Novi Kral of the 17th inst. publishes an account of the recent invitation of the Japanese army to the Port Arthur garrison to surrender. It says:

At 9 a. m. on the 16th inst. our (Russian) troops at the Joss House fort found a party of men advancing under a flag of truce, along the high road from the direction of Chienshan and telephoned the news to the 46th Regiment. Thereupon an order for our whole line to suspend firing was given, and the party was received outside the fort by Captain Lavloff and a small escort. On enquiry the visitors proved to be a Major of the Japanese army, and another officer and four privates. After an exchange of greetings in Russian, the Major asked for an interview with one of our responsible staff officers. His request was telephoned to the headquarters at about 10 a. m., in consequence of which Colonel Reitz and two other officers subsequently appeared on the spot. The Japanese Major then handed to the Colonel two sealed letters, addressed to our commanders of the fortress and the squadron. On taking the Japanese officer politely thanked our officers for the trouble they had taken to meet him in spite of the rainy weather. During the interview the Japanese artillery continued to

bombard our right in spite of the fact that we had suspended our fire.

JAPANESE EXPLOSIVES.

A holocaust the equal of which the world has rarely seen, is going on at Port Arthur. According to a junk which left the besieged city on the 22nd inst., severe fighting has taken place there every day. The Japanese explosives are terribly destructive. They strike batteries, buildings, and warships without discrimination. The projectiles fired from the Japanese siege guns are of an enormous size. When striking the ground, they penetrate to a depth of some six feet and then explode with tremendous force, blowing all the buildings in the neighborhood to pieces. The tragedy occasioned is beyond description. The Russians are losing all their positions, one after the other. Their daily casualties are innumerable. As there is no one to attend to the burial of the soldiers, the remains are piled up in heaps, and only those of the officers are buried, this being done in the most simple manner. The wounded are being brought from the front by all available jinrikshas and carriages. There are five hospital steamers in the harbor, but they are now crowded. In consequence, the wounded are being taken in by ordinary residences and therefore proper medical treatment cannot be obtained.

The warships in the harbor are the battleships Peresviet, Pobeda, Retvisan and Poltava, the cruiser Pallada, and the gunboat Glyak, and twelve torpedo-boats. All of them are severely damaged, and nothing remains upon their decks. In particular, the Peresviet lost 900 men out of her complement of about a thousand. The damage to the Pallada was comparatively slight. The docks have been severely damaged and are unavailable. The workmen all fled. The Civil Governor's office has been totally destroyed by gun-fire.

A RUSSIAN PRISONER.

The Sasebo correspondent of the Tokio Asahi, wiring under date of the 19th inst., states that among the Russian prisoners now detained at the Sasebo naval barracks there are one Second Captain and nine other officers. An interesting feature in connection with the Second Captain is that his father was on board the first Russian squadron which visited many years ago the port of Shimoda, Izu peninsula, and was one of the party who taught the Japanese the method of steering foreign-styled vessels, for which purpose a schooner was built by the Russians. The correspondent further learns that the Captain's father is still alive and is now holding the rank of Vice-Admiral in the Russian Navy, the title of Count having been conferred on him by the Tsar in recognition of valuable services rendered to the Russian Government.

REMNANTS OF A FLEET.

It is reported that the remnants of the Russian squadron now at Port Arthur have since the recent battle placed a considerable number of submarine mines outside the entrance to the harbor and occasionally come out of the latter, cruising off Laotieshan, while within the harbor they frequently change their anchorage from the west to the east harbor and vice versa. Our fleet is therefore vigilantly watching the movements of these vessels, which may at any movement make another sortie or, when compelled by pressing necessity, may blow themselves up.

TOGO'S NARROW ESCAPE.

During the battle of the Yellow Sea, on the 10th inst., Admiral Togo with the Captain of the Mikasa and Rear-Admiral Shimomura, Chief Staff Officer, stood on the middle of the fore bridge of the flagship. Lieut.-Commander Uryeda was on the left end of the bridge, four yards in front of Second-Sub-Lieut. Nakazawa, and Lieut.-Commander Ogura stood on the right extremity of the bridge. The battleship was in hot pursuit of the enemy's squadron which was seen on her portside. During the chase a 12-in. shell struck the Mikasa just in front of the forebridge. A fragment of the shell shattered the right jaw-bone and shoulder-blade of Lieut.-Commander Uryeda, broke the right upper arm of Second Sub-Lieut. Nakazawa, and buried itself deep in the abdomen of Lieut.-Commander Ogura. The fragment, which wounded three officers at once, travelled in a crooked direction, avoiding Admiral Togo, as if intentionally. Lieut.-Commanders Uryeda and Ogura were once reported to be in a serious condition, but we now learn they are doing well. Recent press despatches from Sasebo attributed to Lieut.-Commander Ogura the statement that the Mikasa was surrounded by the enemy's warships. He now contradicts this report as a misrepresentation of his remarks to the effect that the Mikasa was made a focus of the enemy's fire. Of course no one could have imagined that the Mikasa had ever fallen into so difficult a position as to be surrounded by the Russian war-vessels.

FUSHIMI FOR AMERICA.

Marquis Ito returned to Tokyo on the evening of the 20th inst. from Ikao, Joshu, whither His Excellency had gone, in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty the Emperor, to visit H. I. H. Admiral Prince Arisugawa, who is now staying there. His Excellency proceeded to the Imperial Palace on Sunday at 10:30 a. m., and was received in audience by the Emperor, when he reported to His Majesty the result of his recent interview with H. I. H. Prince Arisugawa. In this connection it is stated that as the result of the audience, H. I. H. General Fushimi will probably be despatched to America.

HOW TO AVOID THE DANGERS OF A COLD.—Everyone must realize the dangers attending a severe cold, and that it is always prudent to remain in-doors until the danger is passed. Many, however, do not feel able to lose the time and will be interested in knowing that a severe cold may be broken up and all danger avoided by the prompt use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It not only cures, but cures quickly and counteracts any tendency toward pneumonia. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.

THE NEW METHODIST PASTOR AND HIS FIELD OF LABOR



REV. JOHN W. WADMAN.

Rev. John W. Wadman, recently appointed to the superintendency of the Hawaiian Mission of the M. E. Church, arrived by the "Sierra," as previously announced in these columns and has taken up his residence in the parsonage of the Methodist Church, corner of Miller and Beretania streets. Mr. Wadman is accompanied by his eldest daughter who has just completed her seminary course in the Women's College of Baltimore, Md. Mrs. Wadman will remain for a short time on the mainland for the education of his other children, all of whom will, in the near future, make their home in Honolulu.

The Board of Missions of the M. E. Church has felt the need for some time of increasing and extending the interests of their work here among the Japanese and Koreans, and at the General Conference in its recent session at Los Angeles it was decided to organize this work into a separate mission and appoint a superintendent in full charge. The purpose is to develop the work more thoroughly, appoint several missionaries, raise up a band of native helpers, open schools, build small chapels and place the mission as soon as possible upon a self-supporting basis. Mr. Wadman has spent fifteen years in Japan, giving himself fully to the study of the people, their customs and language. He has

taught in their schools and preached in their towns and villages. For several years he has dwelt in the interior of the country, being the only white man for miles around, but has latterly resided in Yokohama in charge of the mission interests there and in Tokyo.

Previous to his missionary career, he spent ten or twelve years as a pastor in his native land and served two or three important city appointments. He thus enters upon his new duties here with considerable experience and hopes to make the work a success.

Rev. G. L. Pearson, who for several years so effectively cared for these mission interests in connection with his pastorate of the (English) M. E. Church, is now attending the annual meeting of the California Conference and will be appointed, it is expected, to some San Francisco church. This same conference will arrange for a man to come as his successor here. This may take some few weeks to find a suitable person for this important place and fully adjust matters but in the meanwhile Mr. Wadman will supply the pulpit of the English church, preaching morning and evening at the usual hours, beginning with the services on the morrow. The church is located on Beretania street, nearly opposite the Central Union church and all are most cordially invited to attend.

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